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THE ROBINSON FAMILY OF MIDDLESEX, &c.

(CONTINUED.)

Edmund Randolph in his manuscript essay toward a history of Virginia says: "The death of John Robinson the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and Treasurer of the Colony produced great agitation. These offices had generally been united in the same person. The chair, as the presidency of that house was called, was the seat of the prolocutor and being without a salary derived the support of its dignity as far as money was necessary to it, from the emoluments attached to the Treasury.

"This gentleman was a native, educated wholly in Virginia. His reputation was great for sound political knowledge, and acquaintance with parliamentary forms,—a benevolence which created friends, and a sincerity which never lost one. Then only had he an enemy when the private individual was to be sunk in the public office.

"When he presided the decorum of the house outshone that of the British House of Commons, even with Onslow at its head. When he propounded a question his comprehension and perspicacity brought it equally to the most humble and the most polished understanding. To committees he nominated the members best qualified. He stated to the House the contents of every bill, and shewed himself to be a perfect master of the subject. When he pronounced the rules of order, he convinced the reluctant. When on a floor of the committee of the whole house, he opened the debate, he submitted resolutions and enforced them with simplicity and might. In the limited sphere of colonial politics, he was a column."

In the preface and in the journals of the House of Burgesses 1766-69, published by the Virginia State Library may be found much information in regard to Speaker Robinson's defalcation.

Speaker Robinson married three times. He first married in Middlesex county, on November 8, 1723, Mary Storey (*Register*). By this marriage he is said to have had only one child who survived only a few days. He married, secondly, Lucy, daughter of Augustine Moore, of "Chelsea," King William county, and had at least two children, John and Lucy, named in their grandfather Moore's will in 1742. The son John, certainly died young. Speaker Robinson married a third time, on December 21, 1759, (*Va. Gazette*) Susan, daughter of Col. John Chiswell, of Williamsburg. On account of the destruction of the records of King and Queen county, the fact that no copy of his will seems to have been preserved, there is uncertainty as to Mr. Robinson's children, except those of the last marriage. He is stated to have had a daughter who married a Col. Boyd and whose descendants moved to the South. It is also possible that there were other children of the earlier marriages, but

one of his grandchildren by the last marriage, who lived to a great age, and frequently talked of the family never mentioned any such relations.

Issue by last marriage :

61. John⁹, died young and unmarried. In the *Virginia Gazette*, January 27, 1774, is the following obituary :

DEATHS.—Master John Robinson only son of the late Speaker, at the House of William Nelson in Caroline. His Corpse was brought to King & Queen, and buried on a high Point of land near Mattapony River, a small distance above Turner's Warehouse.

One favour'd son engag'd Susannah's care,
One pious youth her chief Affection crown'd ;
In his young Breast the virtues sprung so fair,
Such charms display'd, such sweets diffus'd around.

But whilst gay Transport in her face appears
A noxious Vapour clogs the poison'd sky
Blasts the fair Crop—the Mother's drown'd in Tears
And scarce Surviving, sees her Darling die.

O'er the pale Corpse we saw her gently bend,
Heart-chilled with grief—my Thread she cry'd is spun!
If Heaven had meant I should my Life extend
Heaven had preserv'd my Life's Support—my Son!

62. Susan⁹, married Robert Nelson, of "Malvern Hill," Henrico county.

21. WILLIAM¹ ROBINSON (*John⁹*) was born March 25, 1709, in Middlesex county. (*Register*.) He removed in early life to Spotsylvania county, where he married Agatha, daughter of Harry Beverley, of that county. The marriage bond was dated February 17, 1737. (*Spotsylvania Records*.) Wm. Robinson was long J. P. for the county and was commissioned major of militia September 17, 1743. But little is known definitely of William Robinson or his children. He is said to have married twice, first to Agatha Beverley and second to Miss Smith, and it has been questioned whether he was the William Robinson, whose will was proved in 1792. The first marriage is, of course certain, and there can be no doubt that he was the Wm. Robinson who died in 1792 leaving a widow Agnes. There is on record in Spotsylvania a deed, dated November 5, 1764, from William Robinson and Agnes his wife, of Spotsylvania county, to John Robinson, Esq., of King and Queen (his brother). The surname of the second wife, Agnes, is unknown. The will of William Robinson was dated March 5, 1792, and the executor's bond dated August 7, 1792. The executor was Beverley Winslow. The legatees were sons Benjamin, Francis, and Samuel, wife Agnes, daughter Agnes, and daughters Lucy Nelson and Elizabeth Nelson. No provision is made for the children of the first marriage, who had

long before received their portions. It seems probable that at the time of his death, Wm. Robinson was not possessed of any large amount of property, and that his children removed from the county. Little or nothing is known as to the descendants of most of them, and it is hoped that any one having definite information will furnish it for publication.

Issue of William⁷ Robinson by 1st marriage with Agatha Beverley :

63. John⁸. He is stated in a traditional account to have married a Miss Page and to have been ancestor of a family of Robinsons in King William county, but this statement is not borne out by the records. There is among the records of Orange county a marriage bond; dated November 24, 1757, for the marriage of John Robinson and Lucy Smith. By a deed dated November 3, 1763, William Robinson of Spotsylvania county, conveyed to his son John, 1190 acres of land in Spotsylvania, which Agatha, late wife of said Wm, had inherited from her father Harry Beverley, and by three deeds later in 1763 John Robinson and Lucy his wife sold to other parties the land which had recently been conveyed to him. There are also deeds in 1760 from William Robinson, and John Robinson and Lucy his wife, conveying lands in Spotsylvania. As the sale of 1763 included the place where John Robinson lived it is probable that he then removed from the county. Nothing more is known of him or his descendants, and information is desired. In the latter part of the 18th century a John Robinson and Lucy his wife lived in the Shenandoah Valley. Their descendants know nothing definitely of their ancestry, but the tradition among these descendants was that the family came from Yorkshire and that some of its members lived in Essex county, Va. This John and Lucy Robinson had two sons who went to Tennessee about 1800, and also a third son John Thomas Robinson who married Elizabeth Emerson and had issue: William, Richard, John, Beverley W., Arthur Samuel and Joseph Lewis. The latter is the father of Mr. P. M. Robinson, Vice-President of the Union National Bank of Clarksburg, W. Va.

64. Harry⁸ (of whom later).

65. Catherine⁸. On December 2, 1757, William Robinson of Spotsylvania, made a deed of gift to his daughter Catherine. She married her cousin Col. Beverley Winslow of Spotsylvania county. (Marriage bond December 23, 1757.)

Issue of Wm.⁷ Robinson by second marriage with Agnes :

66. Benjamin⁸. Named in his father's will. By deed dated June 12, 1770, Joseph Hawkins conveyed 100 acres in the upper end of Spotsylvania to Benjamin, son of William and Agnes Robinson, and by deed dated December 5, 1795, Agnes, relict of Wm. Robinson, and Benjamin Robinson and Catherine his wife, sold 62 acres in Spotsylvania, being the place where Wm. Robinson was

living at his decease. The surname of Mrs. Catherine Robinson is not known, but it seems probable that Benj. Robinson had married a cousin. William Parker, of Spotsylvania, (who had married Susanna, daughter of Beverley Winslow and Catherine Robinson his wife) names in his will dated March 12, 1797, his daughter Catherine Robinson. There is no information in regard to their descendants.

67. Francis⁸. No information.

68. Samuel⁸. No information.

69. Agnes⁸. No information.

70. Lucy⁸. Married Joseph Nelson of Spotsylvania county.

71. Elizabeth⁸. Married William Nelson of Spotsylvania county.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

MT. AIRY.—Thanks are due to Mr. Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., for permission to use a picture of Mt. Airy, Richmond county, which is one of the illustrations of his forthcoming book on old homes and historic houses of Virginia, a work for which he has been long collecting material.

The view, that from the rear; while not as imposing as the front where the main building and wings form a semi-circle, with the terrace and its stone balustrade as the chord, is more readily photographed.

MORTON—CORRECTIONS.—On p. 314, for "Marmaduke Beckwith Mothershead" read "Marmaduke Beckwith Morton," and on p. 315, read that Joseph Morton, who was born in 1709, died in 1782, instead of 1772.

OSBORNE.—I note that the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. IV, No. 3, page 247, and also *Branchiana*, failed to find a child of Captain Thomas Osborne, who in 1637 patented 1000 acres at "Fearing," on "Coxendale." May I call your attention to the following patent?

"Thomas Osborne, Sen'r, was on April 29, Ano. Dom., 1692, *granted* by Fra. Nicholson Esq., 1113 acres of land in Henrico, Varina Parish, on the south side of James River, known now by the name of Coxendale by a former patent by the name of "Fearing," &c., &c. The